

-----Original Message-----

From: ou:DA PENTAGON TELECOMMUNICATIONS(uc),ou:PTC OPERATIONS(uc)

Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2005 5:34 PM

To: AL ALARACT(uc)

Subject: ALARACT 261/2005

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THIS MESSAGE IS BEING SENT BY THE PENTAGON TELECOMMUNICATIONS CENTER
ON BEHALF OF DA WASHINGTON DC//DAMO-AOC//

SUBJ: HIGH INCIDENCE OF HAND BURNS

THIS ALARACT MESSAGE IS RELEASED ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE OF THE
SURGEON GENERAL

SUBJ: HIGH INCIDENCE OF HAND BURNS

1. (U) SOLDIERS IN OIF/OEF ARE EXPERIENCING A DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER
OF HAND BURNS IN RELATION TO OTHER BODY PARTS WHICH POTENTIALLY MAY
BE REDUCED BY WEARING FIRE RESISTANT NOMEX OR KEVLAR GLOVES.
COMMANDERS AND LEADERS AT ALL LEVELS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ENFORCE
WEARING OF FIRE RESISTANT GLOVES, PARTICULARLY DURING HIGH-RISK
ACTIVITIES SUCH AS VEHICLE OPERATIONS, BURNING WASTE, AND HANDLING OF
MUNITIONS. SOLDIERS SHOULD WEAR ONLY FIRE RESISTANT GLOVES SUCH AS
THOSE ISSUED UNDER THE RAPID FIELDING INITIATIVE (RFI). SOME GLOVES
PURCHASED BY SOLDIERS PROVIDE LITTLE OR NO FIRE PROTECTION.

2. (U) DATA FROM THE INSTITUTE OF SURGICAL RESEARCH (ISR) SHOW THAT
SEVERE BURNS HAVE INCREASED FROM 11.9 PERCENT AVERAGE BODY SURFACE
AREA IN APRIL 2003 TO 16.2 PERCENT IN APRIL 2005. THE MAJORITY OF ALL
COMBAT-RELATED BURNS ARE CAUSED BY EXPLOSIONS (IED, VBIED, RPG,
MINES) ON OR NEAR A MILITARY VEHICLE. HAND BURNS OCCUR IN 84 PERCENT
OF VEHICLE-RELATED BURN PATIENTS AND FREQUENTLY LEAD TO SEVERE
LONG-TERM DISABILITIES.

3. (U) POC FOR THIS MESSAGE IS COL PAUL GAUSE AT
PAUL.GAUSE@US.ARMY.MIL, COMM: 703-681-2707, DSN: 761-2707.

4. (U) EXPIRATION DATE CANNOT BE DETERMINED.